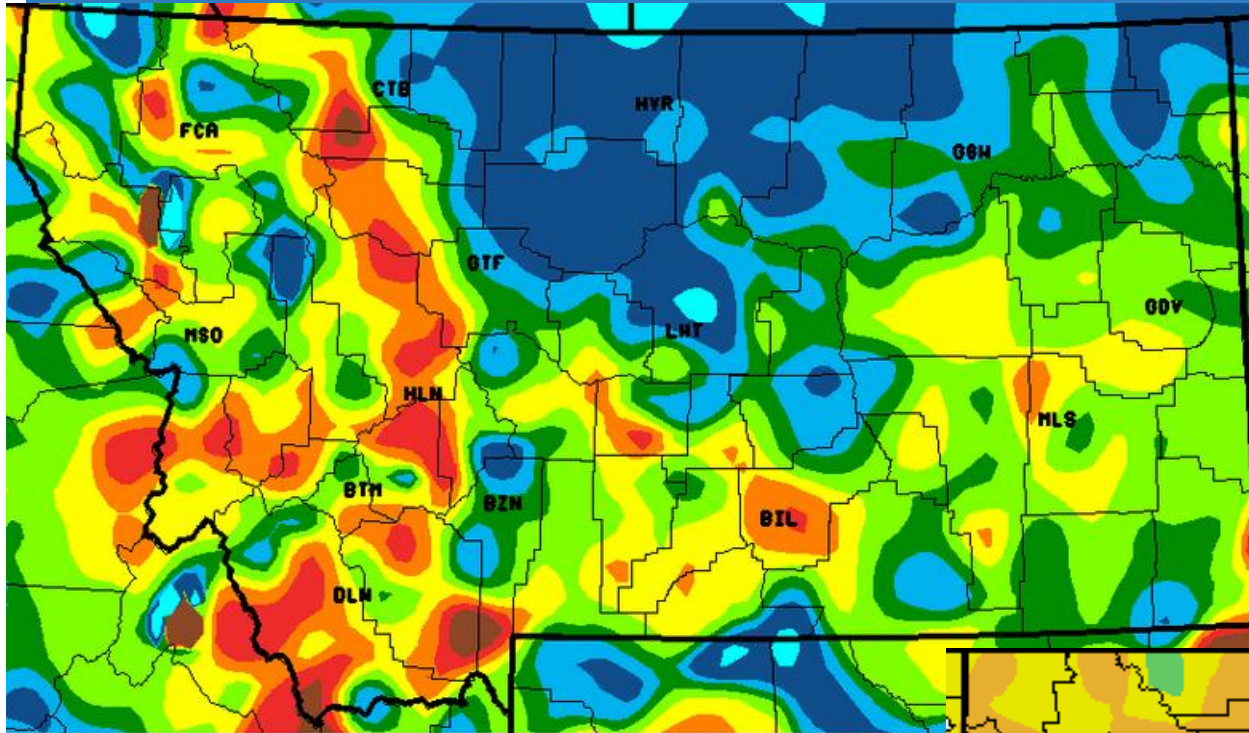


Governor's Drought/Water Supply Advisory Committee

May 10, 2012
National Weather Service
Gina Loss

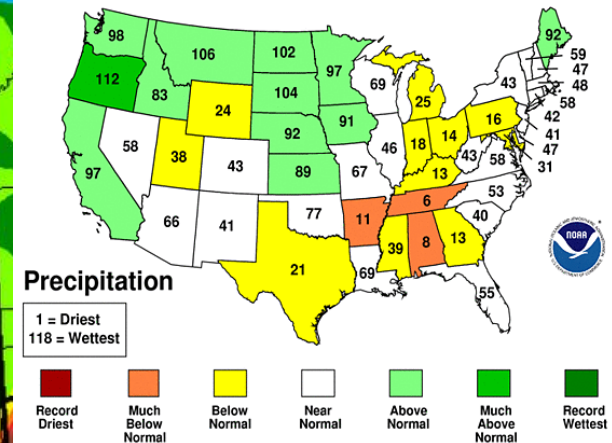
Percent of Normal Precipitation April 2012



April 2012 Percent of Normal Precipitation
Period of Normal: 1981-2010

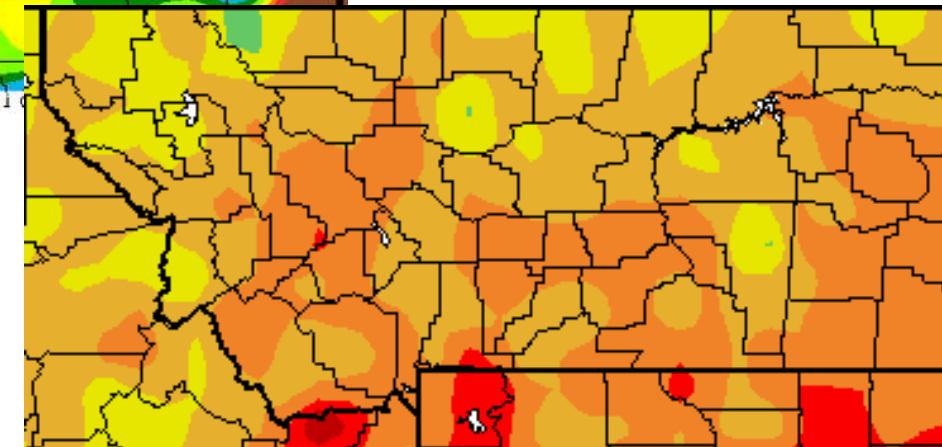
20 40 60 85 115 150 200 400

April 2012 Statewide Ranks
National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA

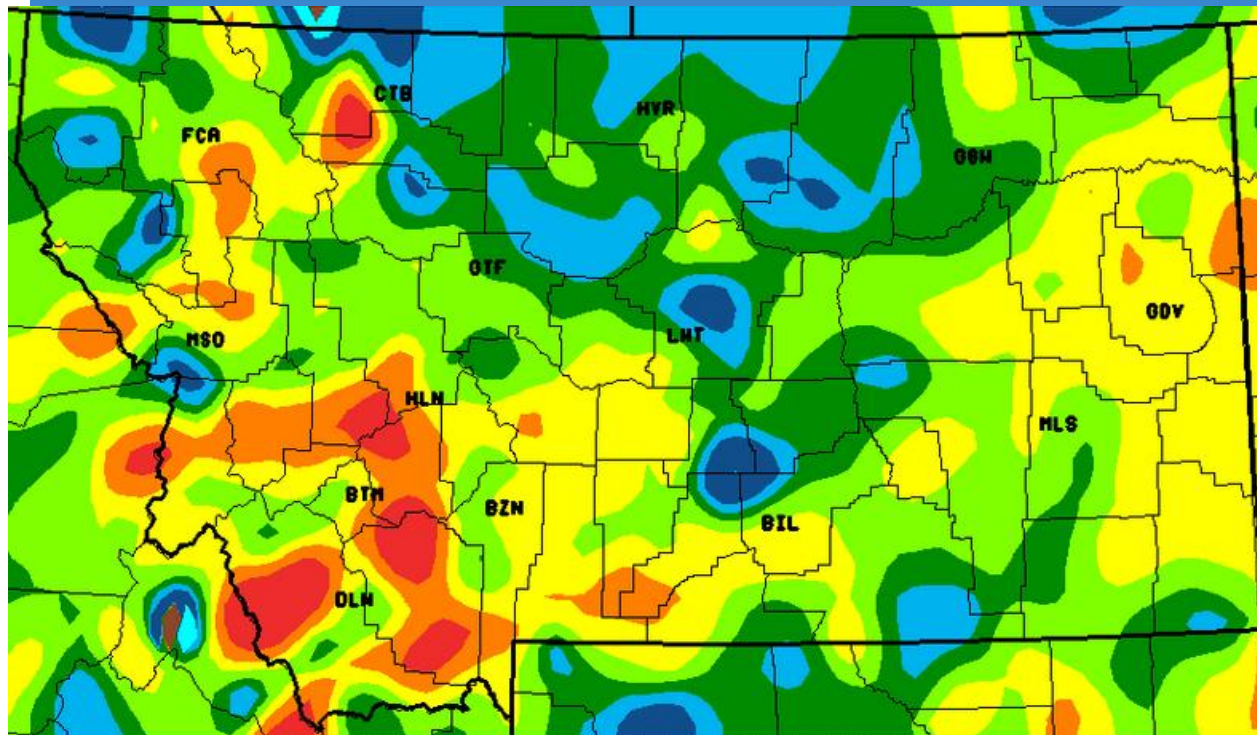


13th wettest, 106th driest

Departure from average
temperature



Percent of Normal Precipitation Water Year 2012



Oct 2011-Apr 2012 Percent of Normal Precipitation
Period of Normal: 1981-2010

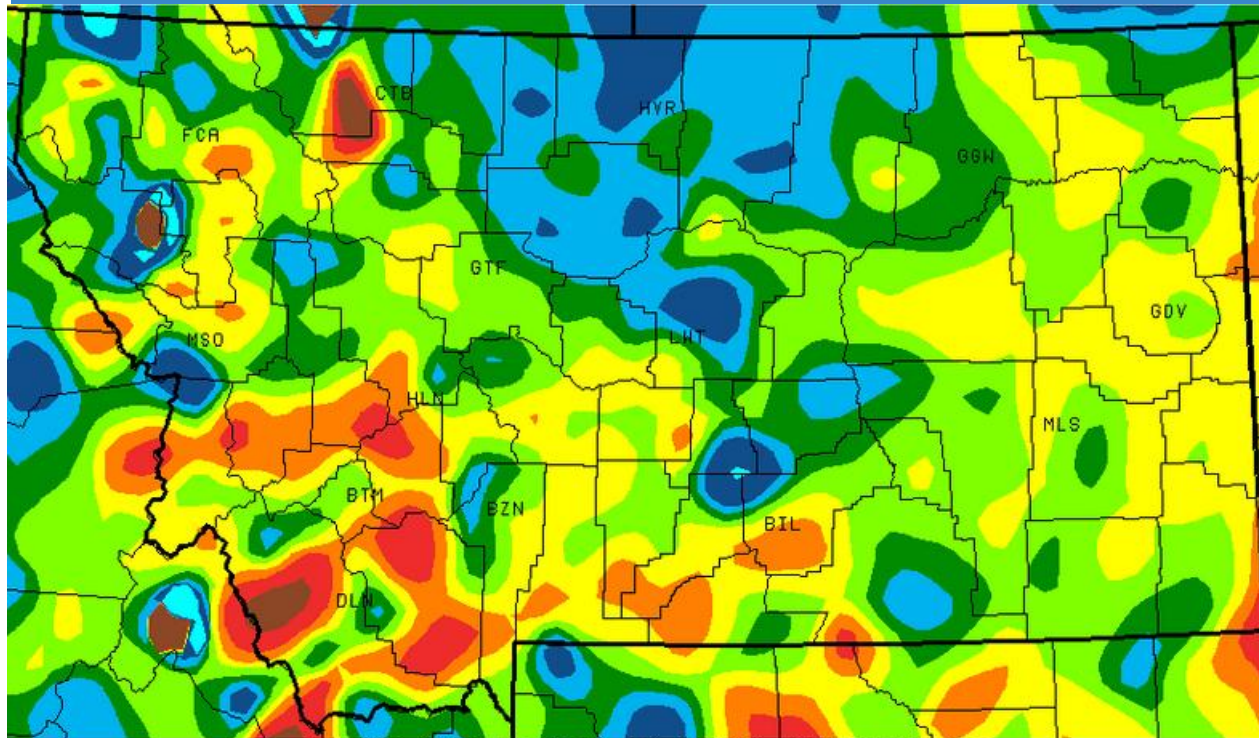
20 40 60 85 115 150 200 400

NOTE: Data used to generate this image are
PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls>

- * October – April
- * More than half of Montana averaging near to above normal
- * Areas west, southwest to south central and east averaging below to well below normal

Percent of Normal Precipitation Calendar Year 2012



Jan-Apr 2012 Percent of Normal Precipitation

Period of Normal: 1981-2010

20 40 60 85 115 150 200 400

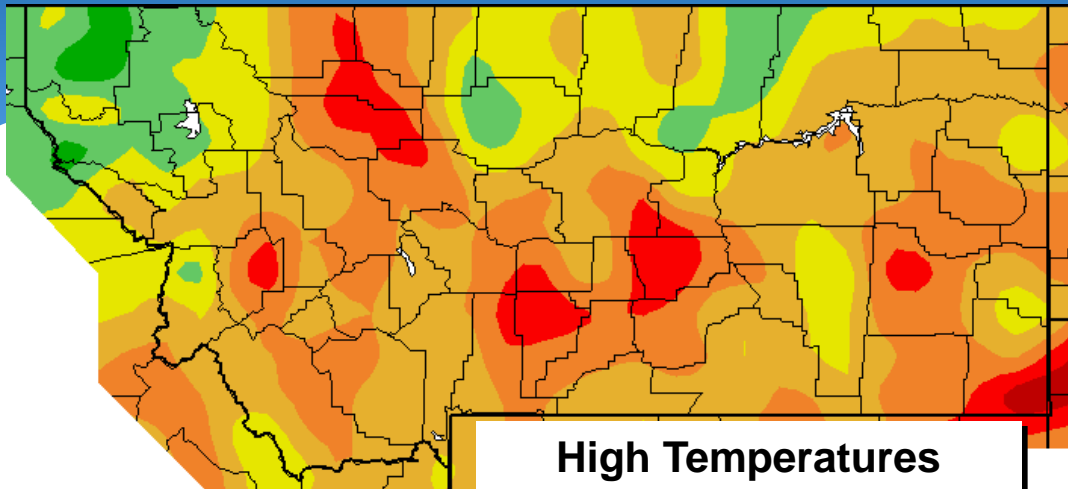
NOTE: Data used to generate this image are
PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls>

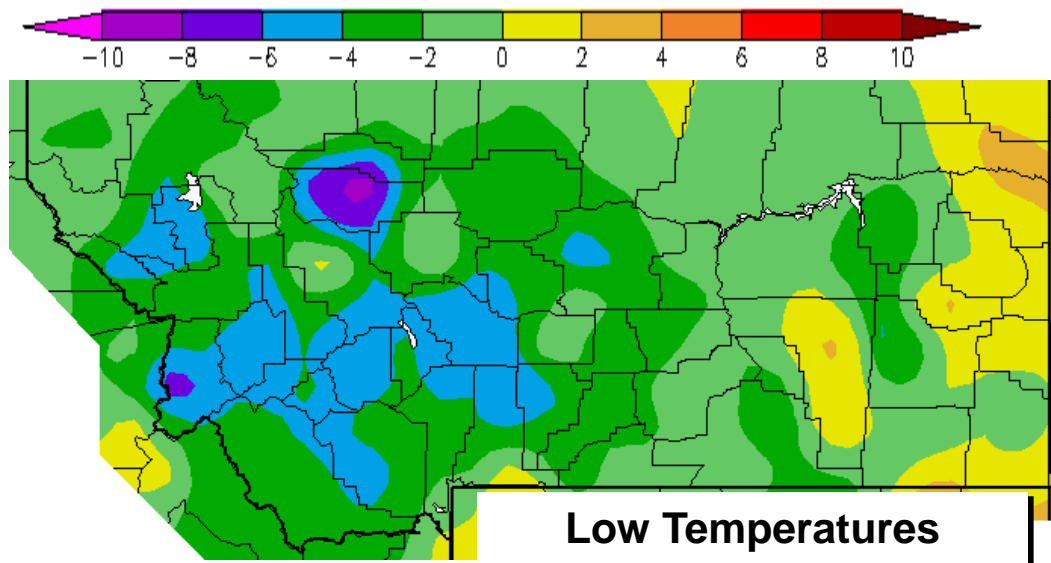
- * January – April
- * Below to well below normal west, southwest to south central and east
- * Above to well above normal north central to south east

Temperature Anomalies

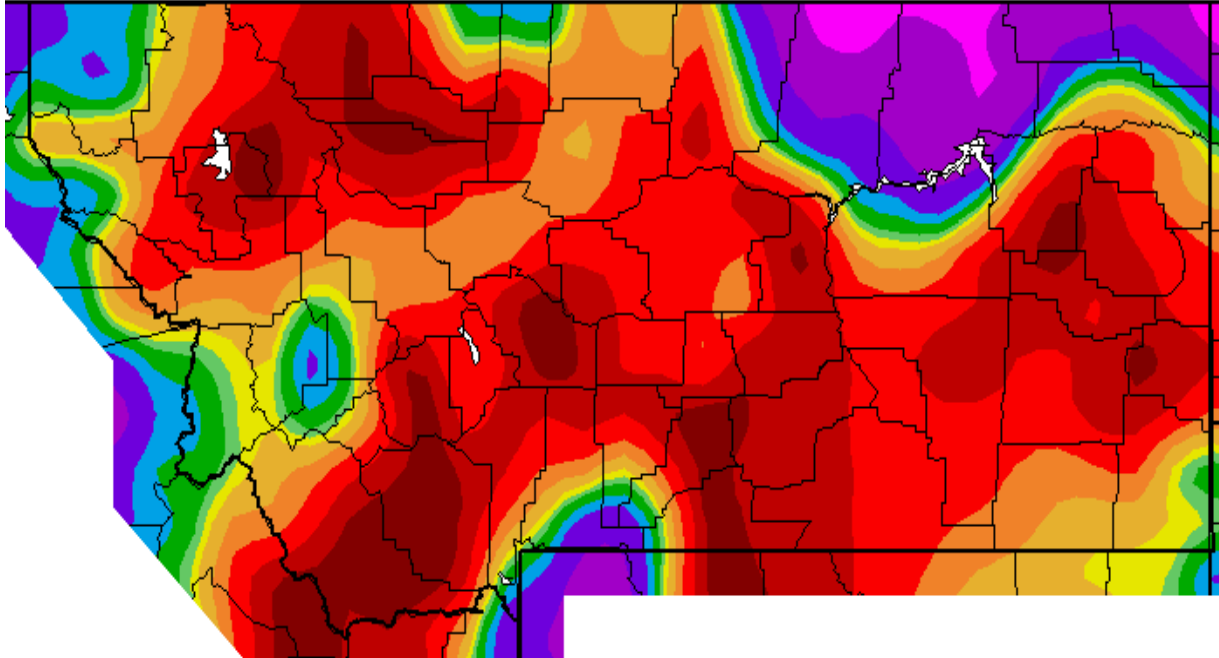
May 1 – 8, 2012



- * Temperatures averaging near to below normal
- * Highs
 - * Northwest – 4-10 degrees below normal
- * Lows
 - * West/southwest/central – 0-4 degrees below normal



Percent of Average Precipitation May 1 – 8

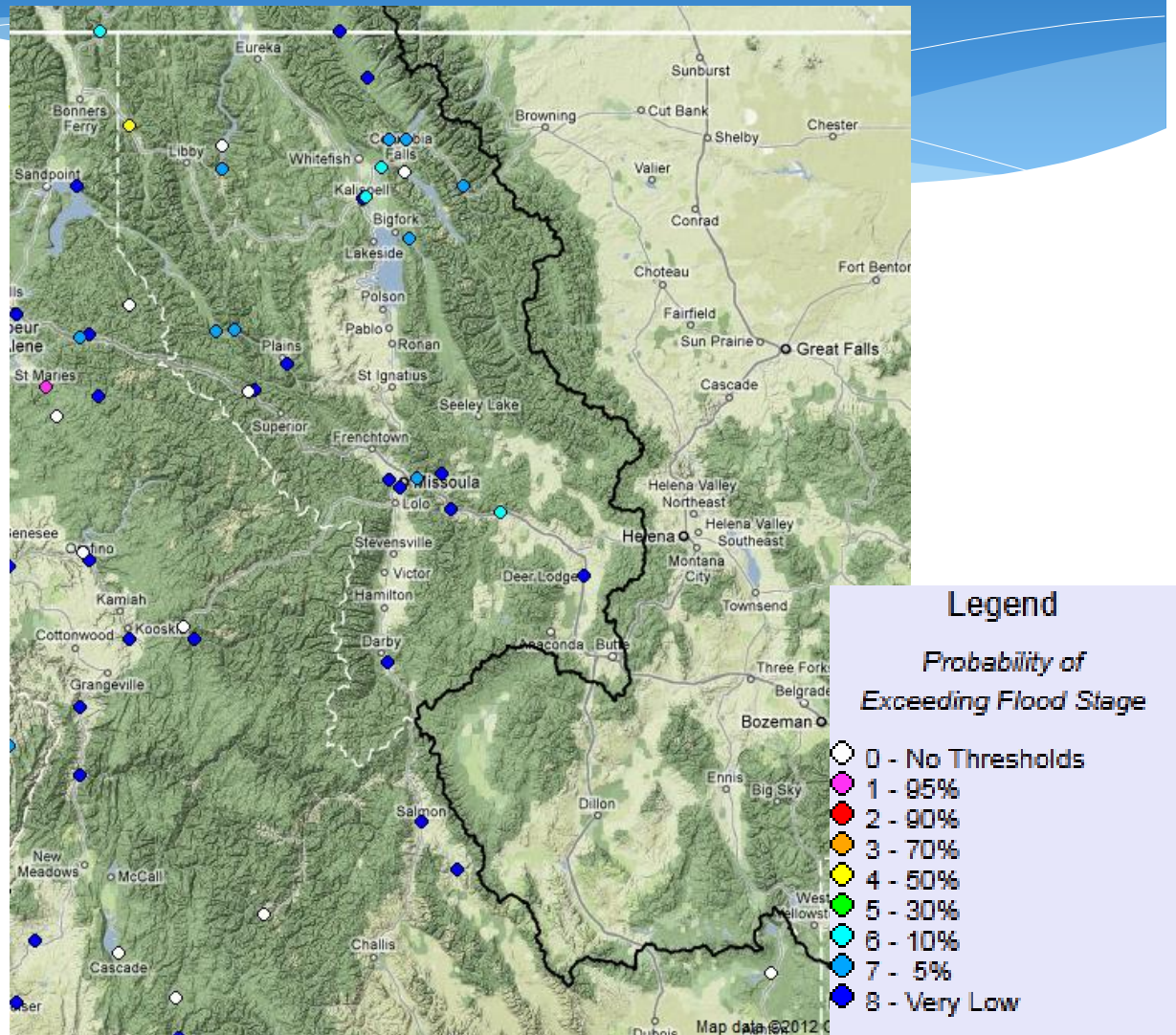


- * Well below normal across much of the state
- * Exception is northeast Montana with 150-300+ percent of normal



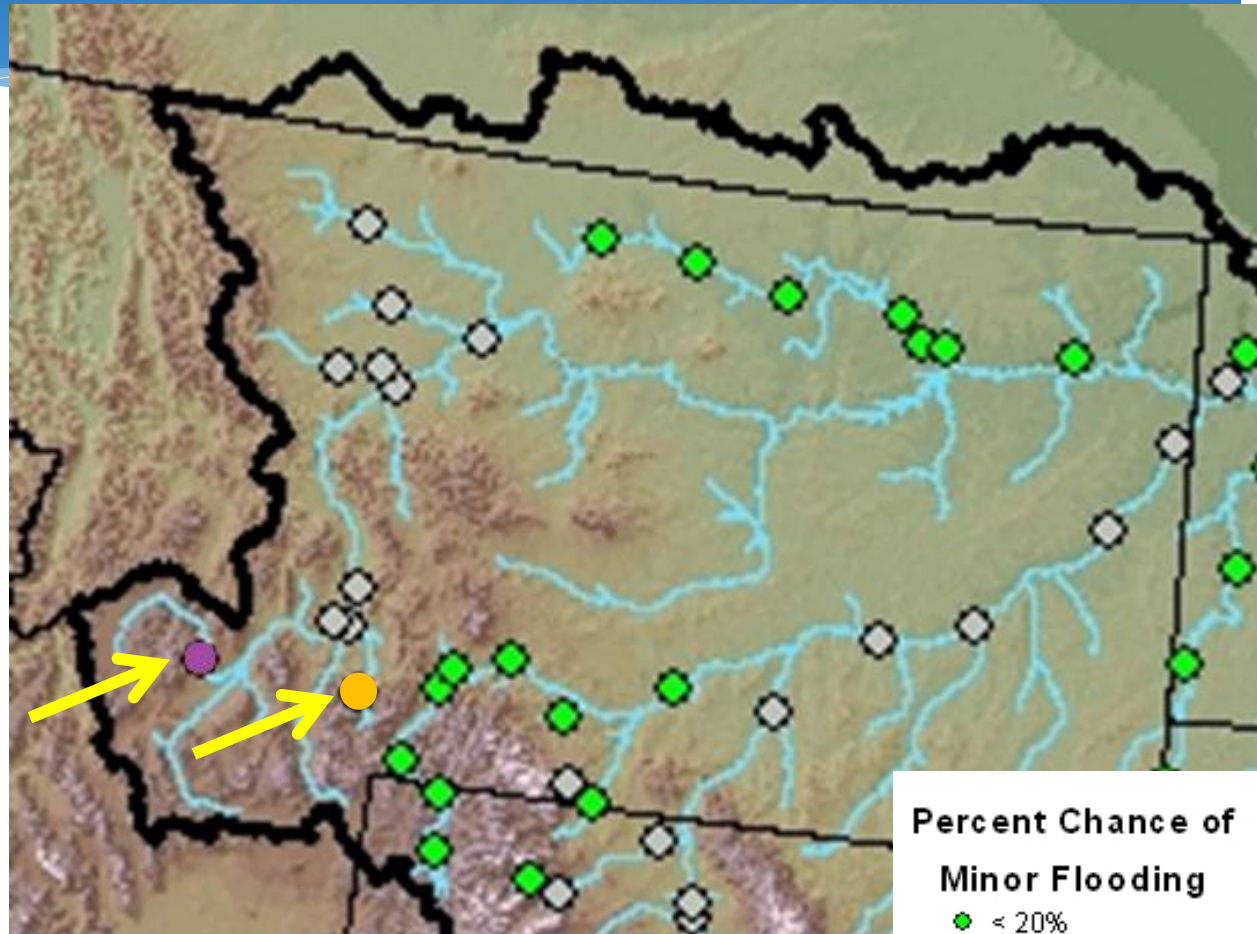
Probability of Minor Flooding West of the Divide

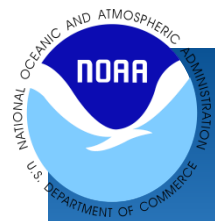
- * Yaak River near Troy has a 50% chance of rising above flood stage
- * Remaining sites currently have a less than 30% chance of rising above flood stage



Probability of Minor Flooding East of the Divide

- * Big Hole River near Melrose has a 92% chance of rising above flood stage
- * Gallatin River near Gallatin Gateway has a 45% chance of flooding
- * Remaining sites currently have a 30% or less chance of rising above flood stage

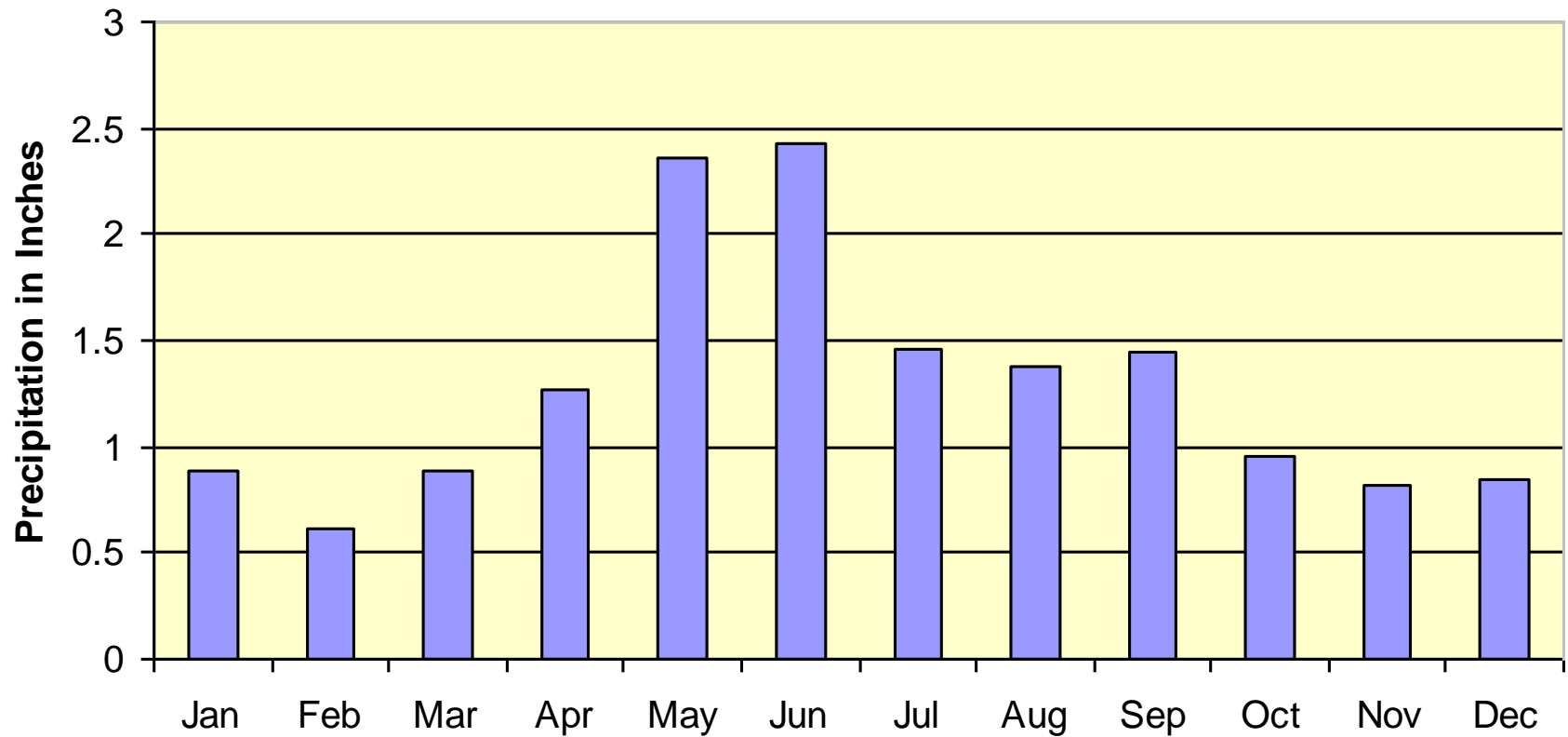


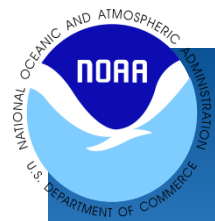


Statewide Average Precipitation

May first of two wettest months

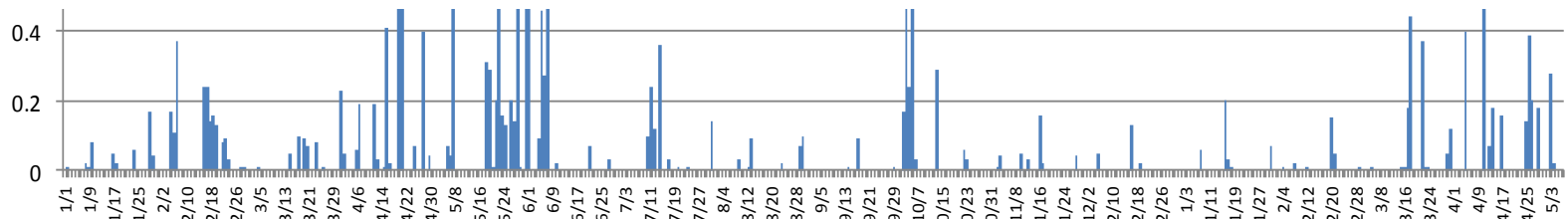
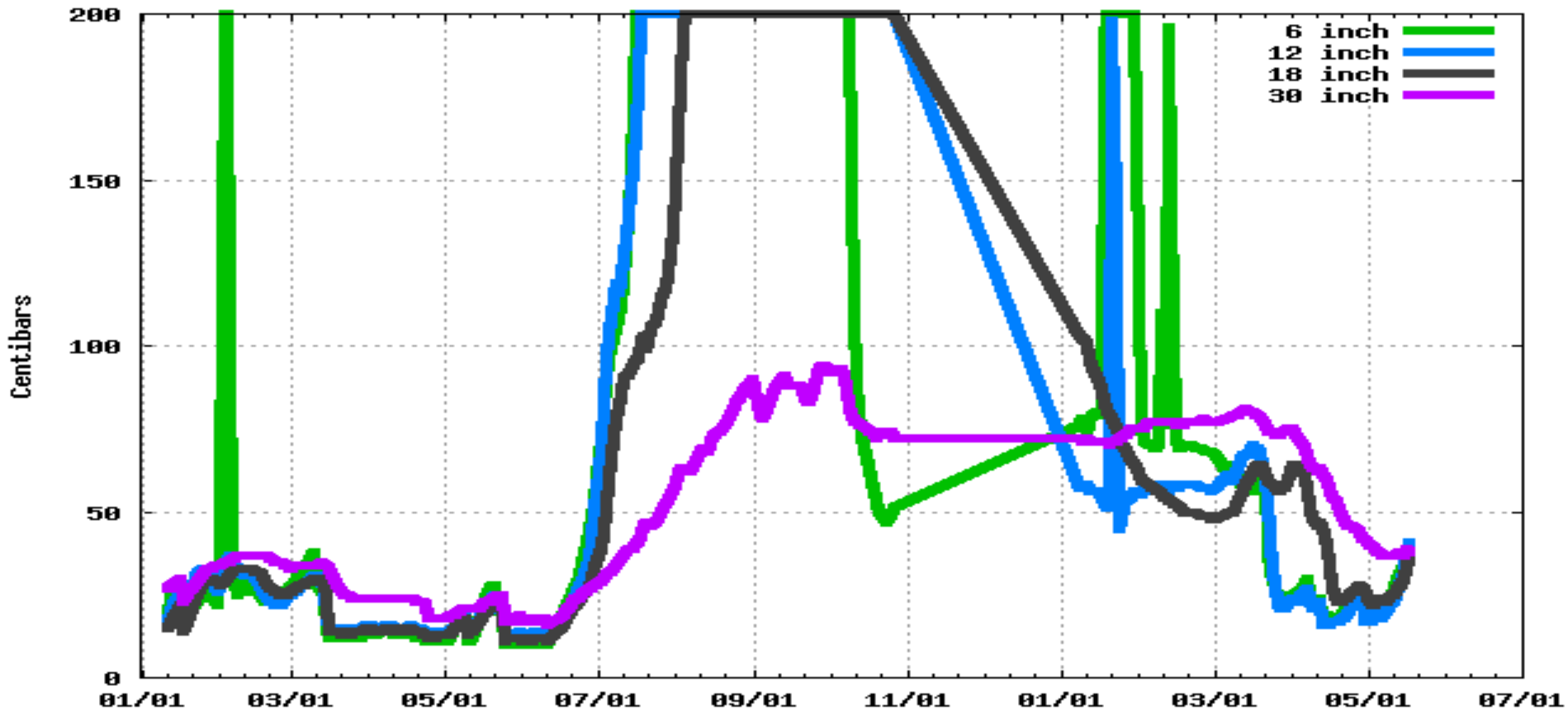
Statewide Average Precip





Great Falls Soil Moisture

Spring storms have moistened soil at all levels

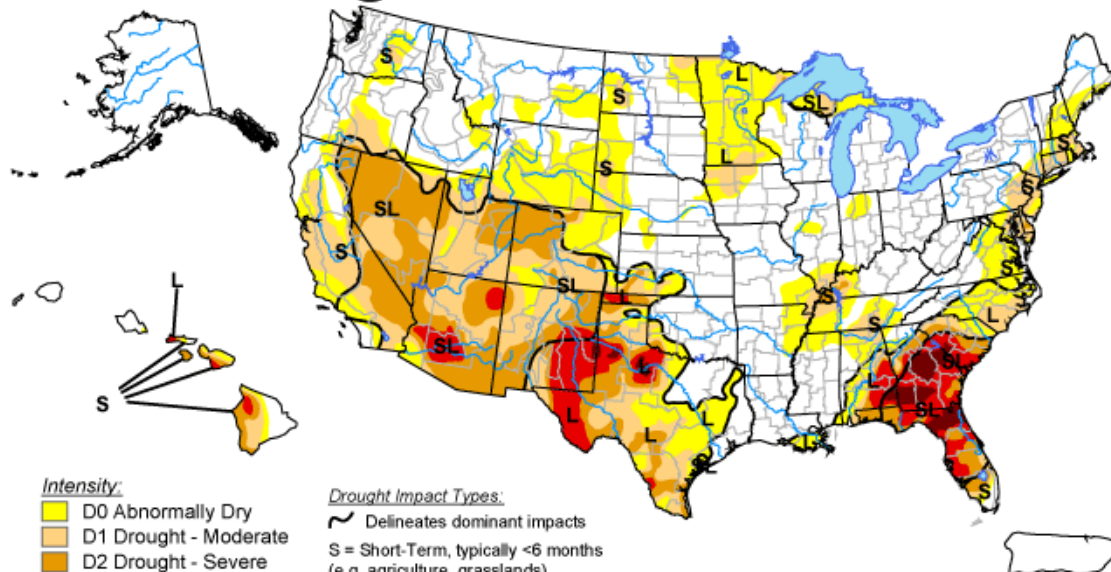


National Drought Monitor

Issued May 8, 2012

U.S. Drought Monitor

May 15, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EDT

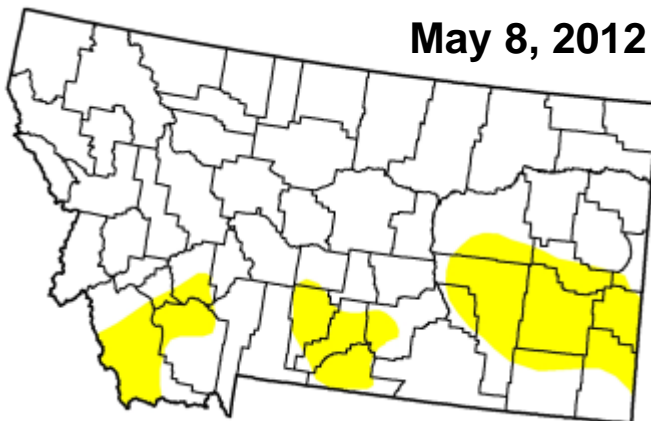


The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text for forecast statements.

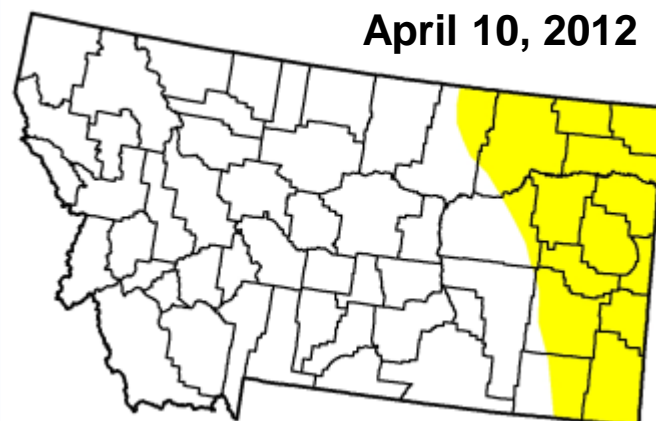
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

* 'Abnormally Dry' in southwest, south central and southeast Montana

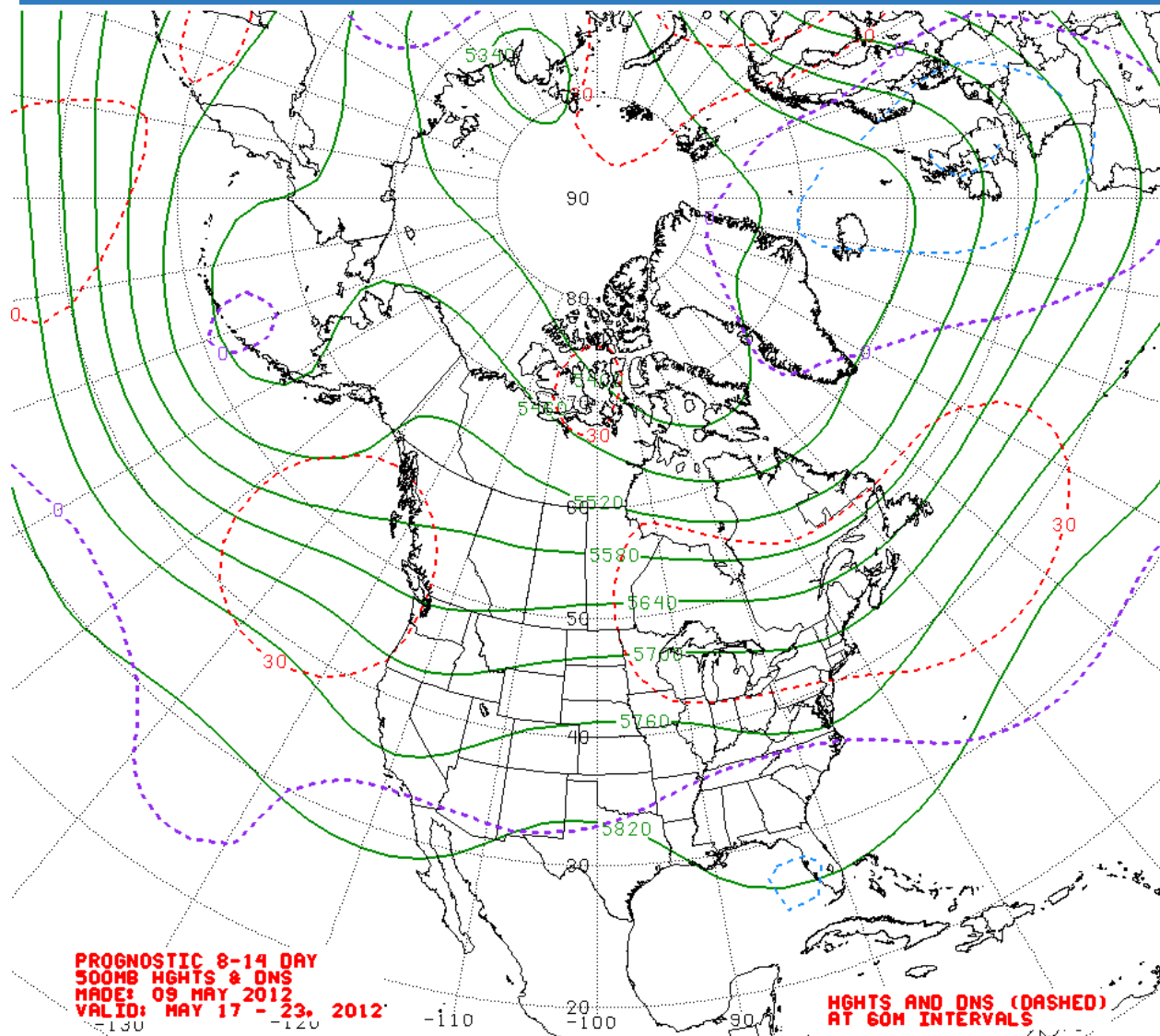
May 8, 2012



April 10, 2012



8 to 14 Day Outlook 500mb Heights and Anomalies

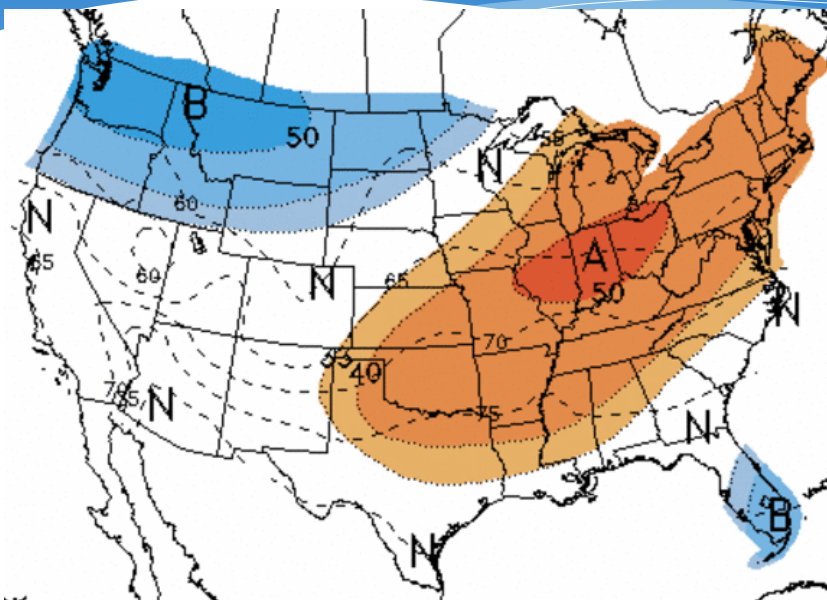


- * West to southwest flow aloft into Montana

8 to 14 Day Outlook

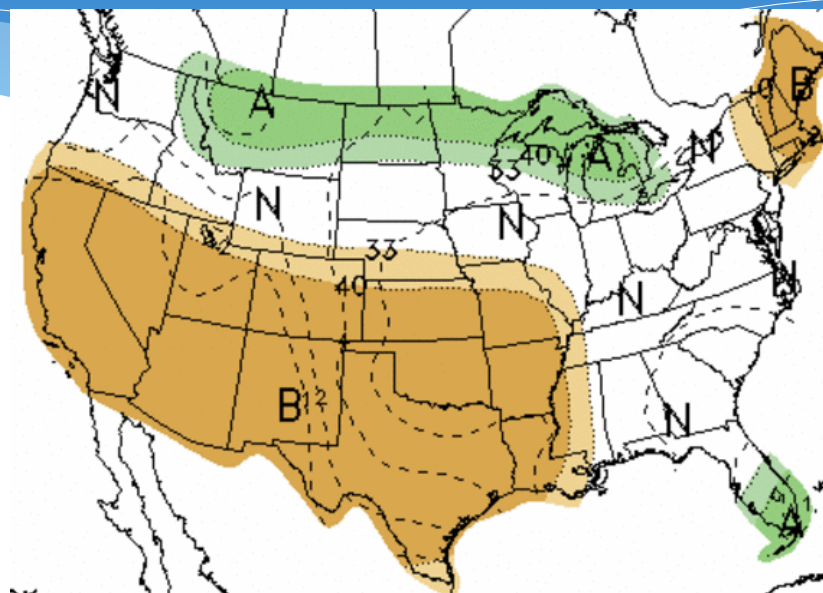
May 17-23, 2012

Temperature

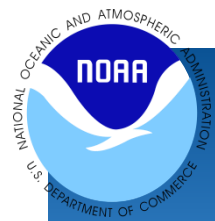


- * 40% to 50% chance temperatures will be above normal over Montana

Precipitation

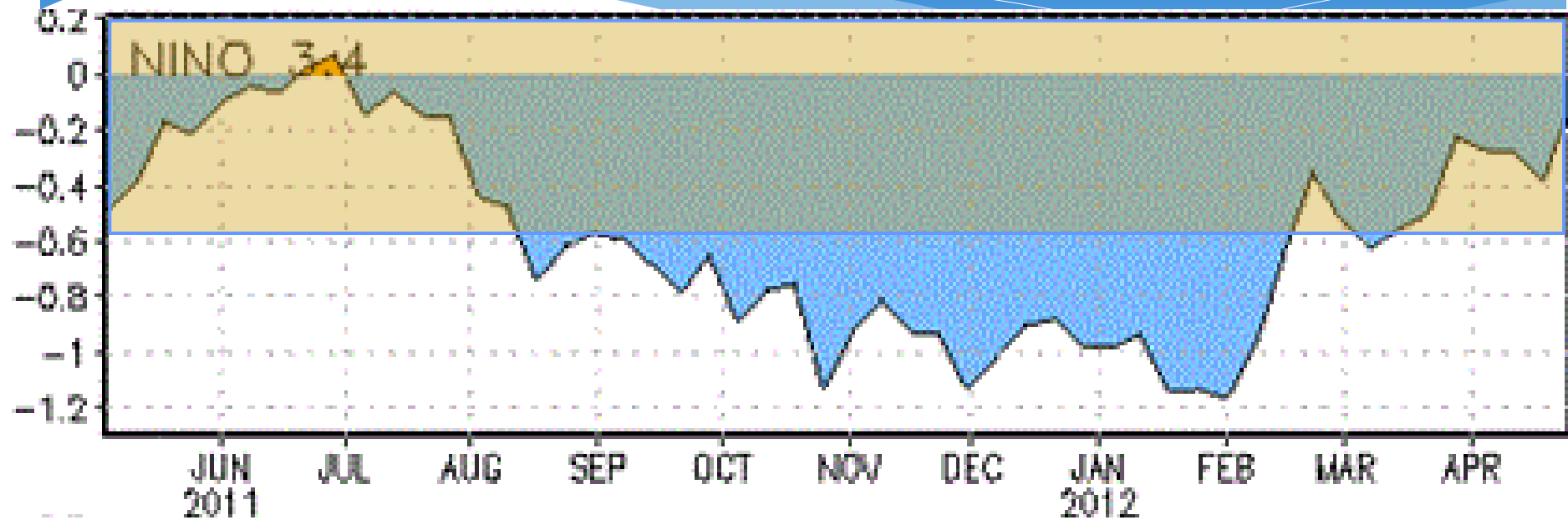


- * 33% to 40% chance precipitation will be below normal extreme western Montana
- * 33% to 40% chances precipitation will be above normal over eastern Montana



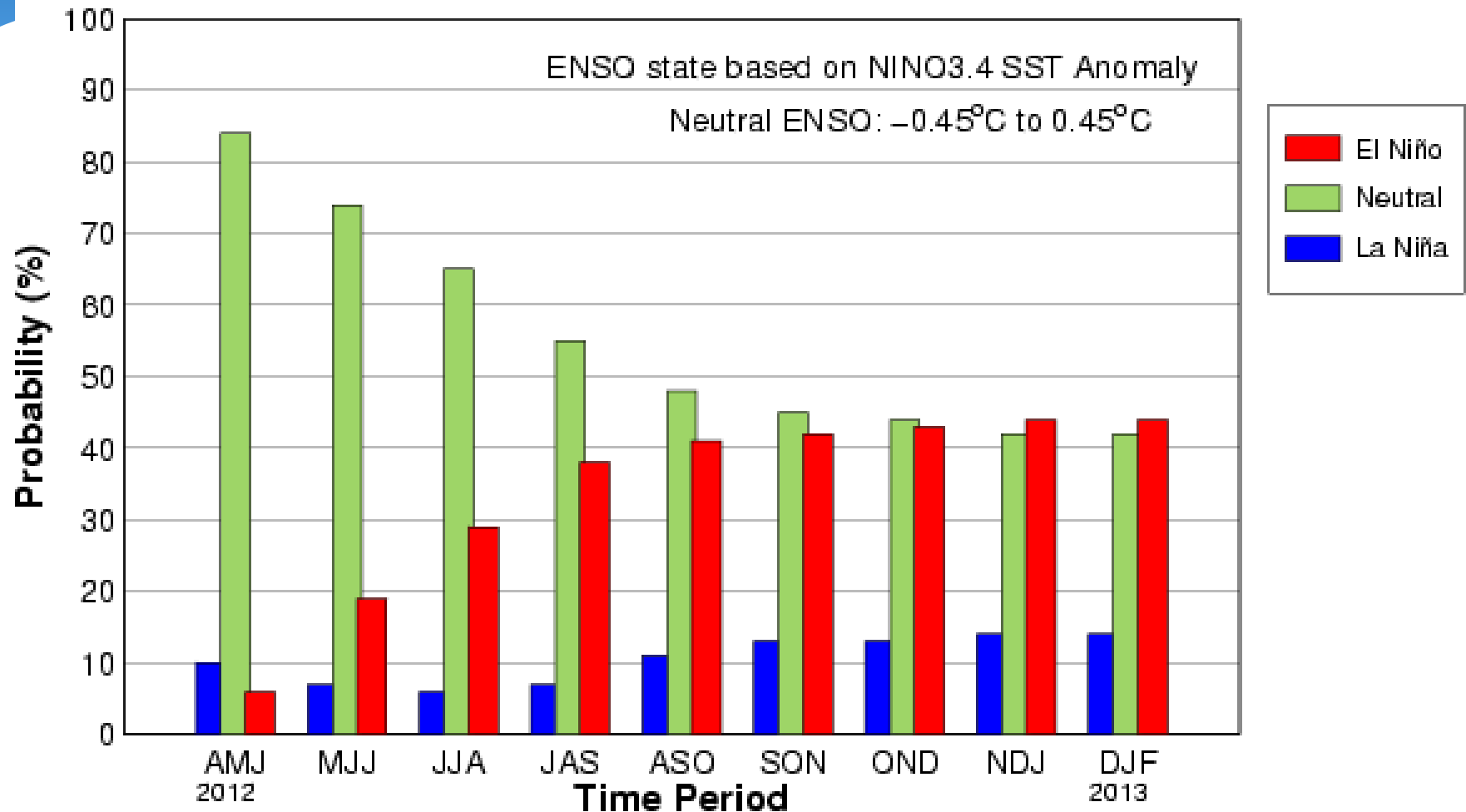
El Niño / La Niña

Neutral conditions expected to continue through summer 2012.



El Niño/La Niña Probabilistic Outlook

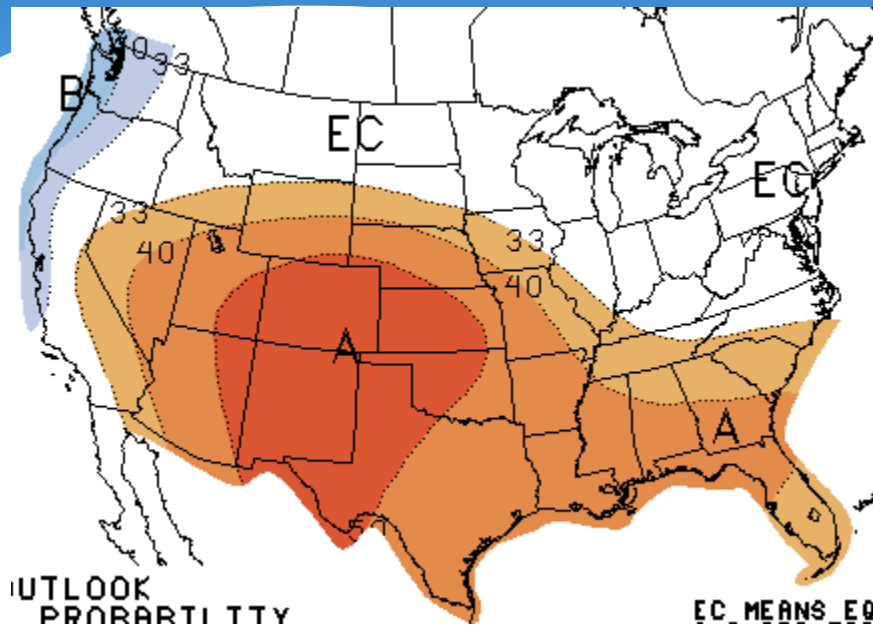
Official Early-May CPC/IRI Consensus Probabilistic ENSO Forecast



May Outlook

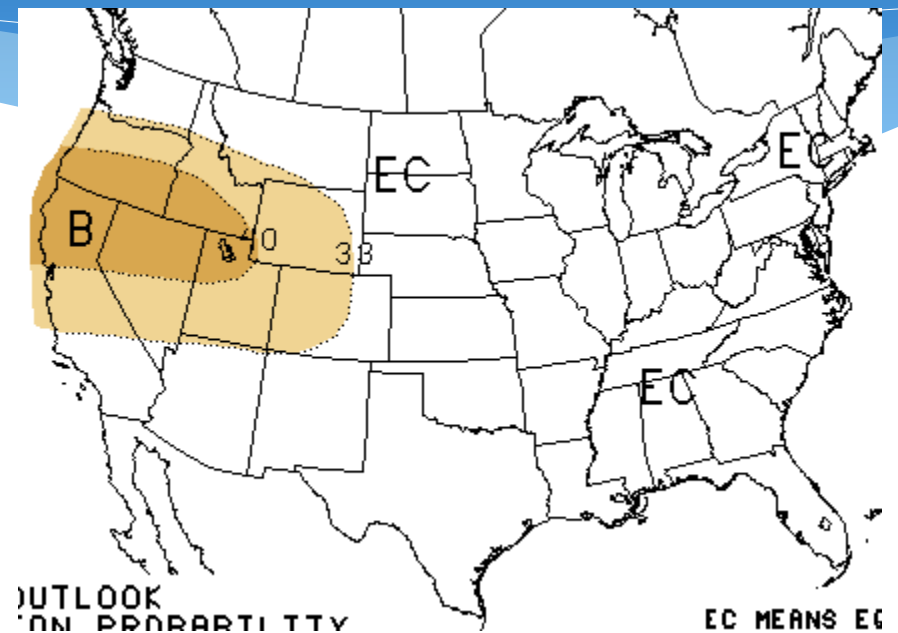
Updated April 30

Temperature



- * Equal chances temperatures will be above, below or near normal across Montana

Precipitation

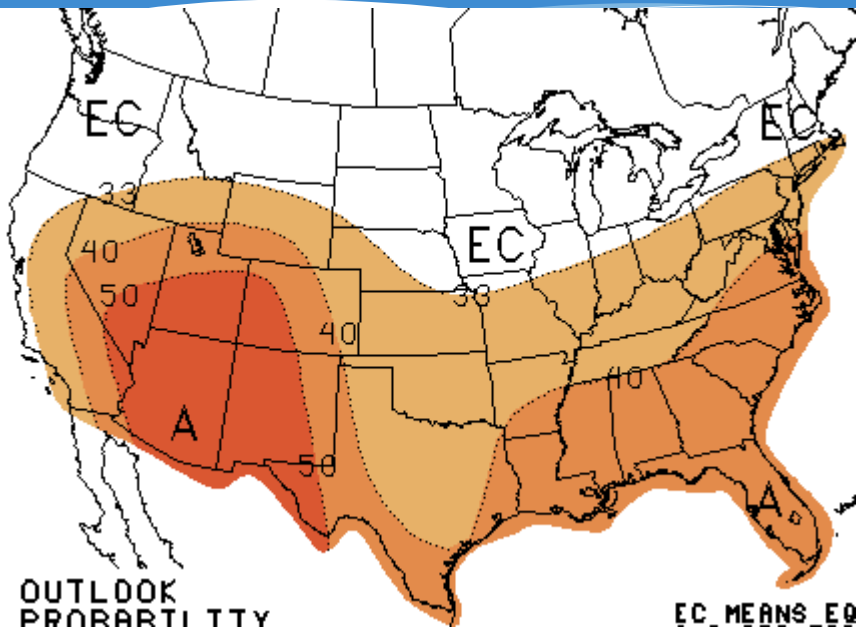


- * 33% to 40% chance precipitation will be below normal southwest into south central Montana
- * Equal chances precipitation will be above, below or near normal across remainder of Montana

June – August Outlook

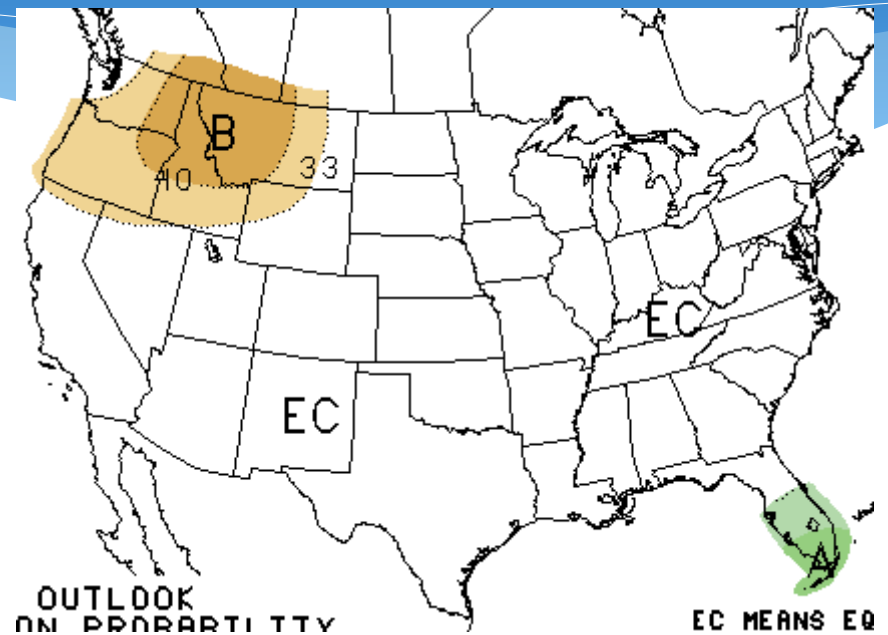
Updated April 19

Temperature



- * Equal chances temperatures will be above, below or near normal across Montana

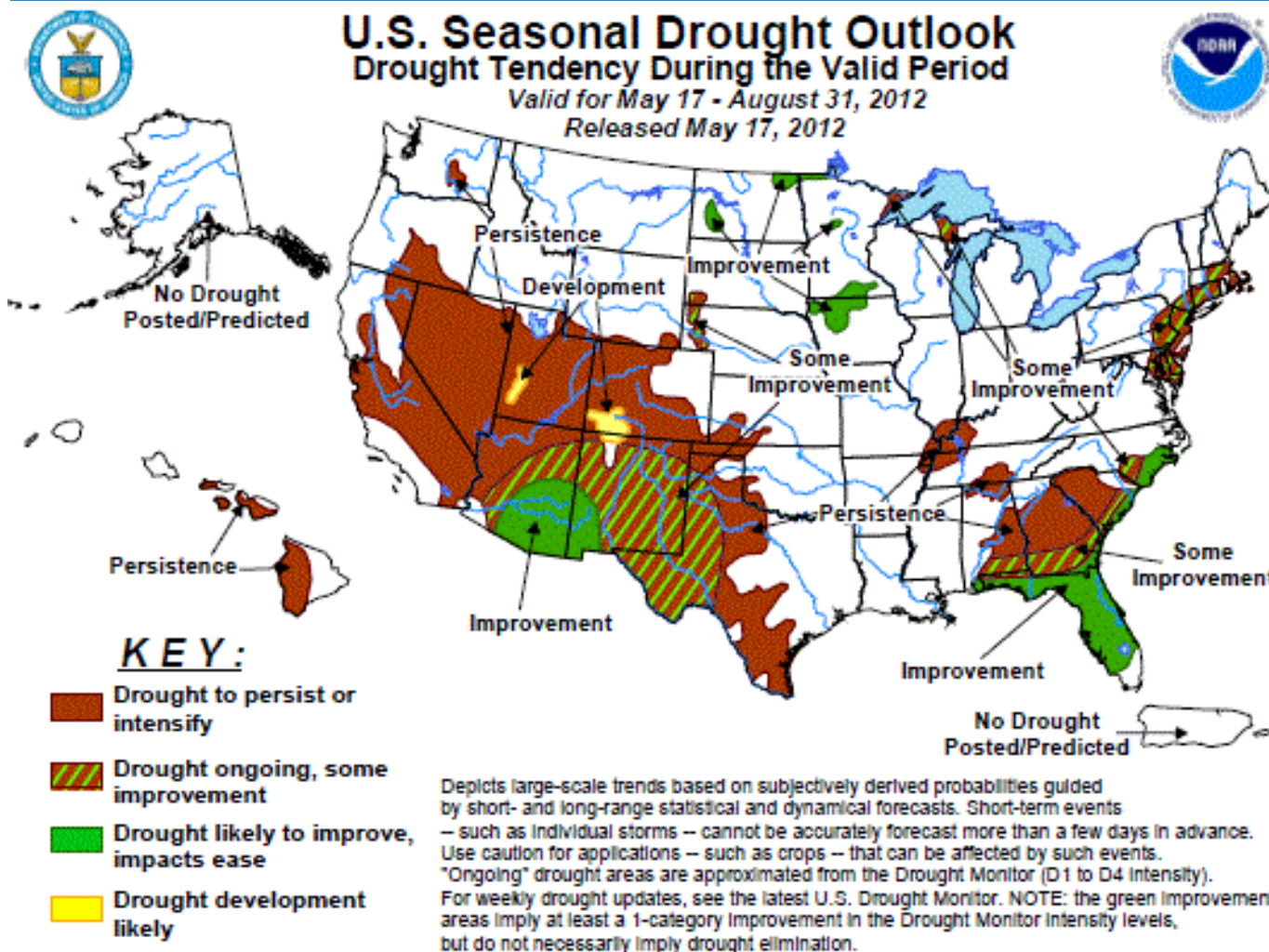
Precipitation



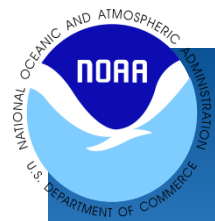
- * 33% to 50% chance precipitation will be below normal over west and central Montana

Drought Outlook through June

Issued May 3, 2012

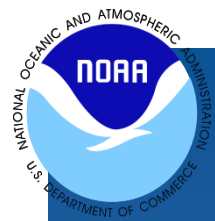


* No drought development forecast for Montana through July



In Summary...

- * April precipitation was normal to above normal north central, northeast and southeast
- * Chances for minor flooding this year have decreased from earlier in the season
 - * Chances for moderate to major flooding are still low
- * May - Forecast calling for equal chances for above, below or near normal temperatures and precipitation across much of Montana
- * June through August - Forecast calling for equal chances for above, below or near normal temperatures with better chances for below normal precipitation
 - * New update` issued next Thursday, May 17



weather.gov

weather.gov/billings

weather.gov/glasgow

weather.gov/missoula

weather.gov/greatfalls